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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/015,305	12/12/2001	Erik Laridon	5383	5658

7590 06/13/2003

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[REDACTED]
EXAMINER

WANG, SHENGJUN

[REDACTED]
ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1617

[REDACTED]
DATE MAILED: 06/13/2003
6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/015,305	LARIDON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shengjun Wang	1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 March 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 and 22-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 17-21 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 5.

2. Applicant's election without traverse of invention group I, claims 1-16 and 22-32 in Paper No. 5, submitted March 27, 2003 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 22-32 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Note the claims are directed to plastic article, the elected subject matters, but are dependent claims of nonelected invention.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-16 and 22-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lever (US 6,187,456), in view of Koji et al. (JP 406136233, with English abstract).

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4. Lever teaches an antimicrobial plastic article comprising a polymer, a silver zirconium phosphate antimicrobial compounds and about 0.08% by weight of calcium stearate. See, particularly, the example 2 in column 2.

5. Lever does not teach expressly to employ the particular amount of calcium stearate herein. (0.1-1.25%, 0.2-1.0% or 0.3%).

6. However, Koji et al. teaches that fatty acid salts, particularly, calcium stearate, are known to be useful in antimicrobial plastic article as lubricant in the amounts of 0.01-10% by weight, and preferably 0.1-5% by weight. See particularly, the abstract, and column 9, lines 28-39.

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed the invention was made, to employ calcium stearate in the amounts herein claimed.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated employ calcium stearate in the amounts herein claimed because the amounts herein employed are within the range of known preferable amounts in a antimicrobial plastics article. The optimization of a result effective parameter, e.g., the amount of a known ingredient in a composition, is considered within the skill of the artisan. See, In re Boesch and Slaney (CCPA) 204 USPQ 215.

7. Claims 1-16 and 22-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koji et al. (JP 406136233, with English abstract).

8. Koji et al teach an antimicrobial resin comprising a polymer, an antimicrobial composition which comprising silver zirconium phosphate, and fatty acid metal salts, such as calcium stearate, as lubricants. See, the abstract. The amounts of lubricant is 0.01-10% by

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weight, and preferably 0.1-5% by weight. See particularly, the abstract, and column 9, lines 28-39.

9. Koji does not teach expressly to employ the particular amount of calcium stearate herein. (0.1-1.25%, 0.2-1.0% or 0.3%).

However, Therefore, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed the invention was made, to employ calcium stearate in the amounts herein claimed because such amount is with the range of Koji's referred amounts. The optimization of a result effective parameter, e.g., the amount of a known ingredient in a composition, is considered within the skill of the artisan. See, In re Boesch and Slaney (CCPA) 204 USPQ 215.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shengjun Wang, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan, can be reached on (703) 305-1877. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Patent Examiner



6/9/03